

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 18-36 are canceled. Claims 37-51 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (New). A method of producing a glycosaminoglycan, comprising

(a) fermenting a *Bacillus* cell to produce a fermentation broth comprising the glycosaminoglycan;

(b) adding calcium chloride to the fermentation broth at a concentration of 0.5-3.5 g of calcium chloride per gram of dry mass of the *Bacillus* cell in order to flocculate the *Bacillus* cell;

(c) after the addition of calcium chloride, adjusting the pH of the fermentation broth to a pH between 6.5 and 8.5;

(d) after step (c), removing the *Bacillus* cell and/or high molecular weight contaminants; and

(e) after step (d), recovering the glycosaminoglycan.

Claim 38 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the calcium chloride is added at a concentration of 0.5-2.5 g of calcium chloride per gram of dry mass of the *Bacillus* cell.

Claim 39 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the calcium chloride is added at a concentration of 1.0-1.3 g of calcium chloride per gram of dry mass of the *Bacillus* cell.

Claim 40 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the calcium chloride is added at a concentration of 1.3-2.0 g of calcium chloride per gram of dry mass of the *Bacillus* cell.

Claim 41 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the *Bacillus* cell is a *Bacillus subtilis* cell.

Claim 42 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is a hyaluronic acid.

Claim 43 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the glycosaminoglycan has a molecular weight of 700 to 15,000,000 daltons.

- Claim 44 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the *Bacillus* cell is removed by filtration.
- Claim 45 (New). The method of claim 37, further comprising diluting the fermentation broth with water before, simultaneously or after the addition of the calcium chloride.
- Claim 46 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the fermentation broth is diluted with 100-500% (w/w) water.
- Claim 47 (New). The method of claim 46, wherein the fermentation broth is diluted with 100-400% (w/w) water.
- Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 37, further comprising heating the fermentation broth to a temperature between 30°C and 60°C before, simultaneously or after the addition of the calcium chloride.
- Claim 49 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein step (b) further comprises adding one or more other flocculating agents to the fermentation broth.
- Claim 50 (New). The method of claim 37, wherein step (b) further comprises adding activated carbon to the fermentation broth.
- Claim 51 (New). The method of claim 37, further comprising purifying the glycosaminoglycan after step (e).